



MA Hassan, chairman and managing director of Aristopharma, attends the company's annual sales conference for 2017 at International Convention City Bashundhara in the capital on Saturday.

Europe casts a wary eye on China's Silk Road plans

AFP, Paris

Depending on who you ask in Europe, China's colossal East-West infrastructure programme is either an opportunity or a threat -- and when French President Emmanuel Macron visits next week, Beijing will be watching to see how keen he is to jump on board.

Since China launched the New Silk Road plan in 2013, the hugely ambitious initiative to connect Asia and Europe by road, rail and sea has elicited both enormous interest and considerable anxiety.

"It's the most important issue in international relations for the years

to come, and will be the most important point during Emmanuel Macron's visit," said Barthelemy Courmont, a China expert at French think-tank Iris.

The \$1 trillion project is billed as a modern revival of the ancient Silk Road that once carried fabric, spices, and a wealth of other goods in both directions.

Known in China as "One Belt One Road", the plans would see gleaming new road and rail networks built through Central Asia and beyond, and new maritime routes stretching through the Indian Ocean and Red Sea.

Beijing would develop roads,

ports and rail lines through 65 countries representing an estimate 60 percent of the world's population and a third of its economic output.

Macron, who heads to China for a three-day state visit on Sunday, will notably be accompanied by some 50 company chiefs keen to do business with the Asian powerhouse.

So far France has been cautious on the Silk Road plan, but Courmont said Chinese leaders were "waiting for a clear position" from Macron at a time when they view the young leader as an "engine" for growth in Europe.

"If Macron takes a decision on how to tackle the Chinese initiative,

all of Europe will follow," Courmont predicted.

But, as Courmont acknowledges, Europe is divided on what to make of China's ambitions.

The continent could potentially benefit handsomely from increased trade over the coming decades, but in some corners there is suspicion that it masks an attempted Beijing influence grab.

"They are notably asking themselves about the geopolitical consequences of this project in the long term," Alice Ekman, who covers China at the French Institute of International Relations, said of France and Germany.

বিআইডব্লিউটিসি
 বাংলাদেশ অভ্যন্তরীণ নৌ-পরিবহন করপোরেশন
 (অভ্যন্তরীণ জাহাজ চলাচল প্রতিষ্ঠান)
 Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation
 (An Inland Shipping Organization)
 ২৪, কাজী নজরুল ইসলাম এভিনিউ, শাহবাগ, ঢাকা-১০০০
 Ref-18.151.026.07.04.41.2017/ Date: 20-04-2017

e-Tender Notice

e-Tender is invited in the National e-Government Procurement (e-GP) Portal (<http://eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of the following works & related services.

Sl	Tender ID	Package No.	Description of the works & services	Tender documents last selling date and time	Tender closing date & time
1.0	139182	PW15	Docking Repair Works of MV Monirul Haque	29 Jan 2018, 17:00	30 Jan 2018, 12:00

- This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.
- The fees for downloading the e-Tender document from the National e-GP Portal has to be deposited online through any registered bank branches.
- Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP Portal and from e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Engr. Abdul Gafur Sarker
 Additional Chief Engineer (Operation)
 BIWTC, Dhaka

BIWTC/PR/34/2017-18
 GD-13

পাওয়ার গ্রিড কোম্পানী অব বাংলাদেশ লিঃ
POWER GRID COMPANY OF BANGLADESH LTD.
 (An Enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board)
 Institution of Engineers Bangladesh (IEB) Bhaban (New), 4th Floor, 8/A Ramna, Dhaka-1000
 Web : www.pgcb.org.bd

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Procurement of Plant Design, Supply and Installation of Package TL-1 400kV Meghnaghat-Madunaghat Double Circuit Transmission Line on Turnkey Basis

Date: January 04, 2018
 Loan Agreement No: BD-P81
 IFB No: 27.21.0000.101.07.203.18.0133
 Reference Identification No: PGCB/JICA/BD-P81/TL/01
 Deadline for submission of Bid: April 10, 2018

- The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has received a loan from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) towards the cost of Dhaka-Chittagong Main Power Grid Strengthening Project. It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for procurement of Package TL-1: "Plant Design, Supply and Installation of 400 kV Meghnaghat-Madunaghat Double Circuit Transmission Line on Turnkey Basis".
- Bidding will be conducted through procedures in accordance with the applicable Guidelines for Procurement under Japanese ODA Loans, and is open to all Bidders from eligible source countries, as defined in the Loan Agreement.
- The Power Grid Company of Bangladesh Limited now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for Package TL-1: "Plant Design, Supply and Installation of 400 kV Meghnaghat-Madunaghat Double Circuit Transmission Line on Turnkey Basis". International Competitive Bidding will be conducted in accordance with JICA's Single-Stage Two Envelop Bidding Procedure.
- Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the Bidding Documents at the head office of the Power Grid Company of Bangladesh Limited (PGCB), Institution of Engineers Bangladesh (IEB) Bhaban (12th floor), 8/A Ramna, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh; E-mail: zafur@pgcb.org.bd or arkpgcb@gmail.com or Web: www.pgcb.org.bd.
- A complete set of the Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders on the submission of a written application to the address above and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of USD 500.00 (United States Dollar Five Hundred) only or Bangladesh Taka 40,000.00 (Taka Forty Thousand) only in the form of Pay Order/ Demand Draft in favour of the Power Grid Company of Bangladesh Ltd. The Bidding Document may be sent through a courier for an additional fee of Bangladesh Taka 1,000/= (local delivery) or USD 150/= (International delivery) in the form of Pay Order/ Demand Draft in favour of Power Grid Company of Bangladesh Ltd.
- Bids must be delivered to the address above on or before 11.00 am (Bangladesh Standard Time) on April 10, 2018 and must be accompanied by a Bid Security of USD 3,500,000.00 (United States Dollar Three Million Five Hundred Thousand) only.
- Bids will be opened at 11.05 am (Bangladesh Standard Time) on April 10, 2018 at the head office of the Power Grid Company of Bangladesh Limited, Institution of Engineers Bangladesh (IEB) Bhaban (13th floor), Ramna, Dhaka-1000 in the presence of Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.

Md. Ashraf Hossain
 Company Secretary



Rume A Hossain, a director of Bank Asia Foundation, poses with the recipients of Bank Asia Higher Studies Scholarship for 2017, at a programme organised by the foundation at Chatkhil in Noakhali on Saturday. The bank awarded the scholarship to 65 meritorious students of Noakhali, Lakshmipur and Chandpur as part of its corporate social responsibility. Md Arfan Ali, president and managing director of Bank Asia, was also present.

China-backed AIIB may launch US dollar bond by end-June

REUTERS, Beijing

The China-backed Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) may issue its first U.S. dollar-denominated bond by the end of June this year, according to a state media report on Sunday citing the bank's treasurer Soren Elbech.

The earliest issuance window will be "toward the end of the first half of 2018," to allow time for certain procedures, including the board of governors' approval of AIIB's 2017 financial statements as well as borrowing and swap documentation, Xinhua said citing a statement from Elbech.

Elbech said the minimum size of the bond would be \$1 billion, but as demand for the first bond issue from AIIB may be strong, "we anticipate having to issue a larger size."

In terms of bond's maturity, Elbech said the choice would be between three and five years depending on investor demand at the time, Xinhua said.

He said the bank planned to cap its total borrowing volume at \$3 billion in 2018.

In November, AIIB Vice President Thierry de Longueur told Reuters the inaugural U.S. dollar bond would likely be launched in Europe sometime in 2018.

The AIIB, which has 80 member countries, was set up by China as its answer to the World Bank to help meet the estimated \$26 trillion need for infrastructure spending in Asia through 2030.

Saudi royal handouts to cost about \$13b: minister

REUTERS, Riyadh

A package of handouts to Saudi Arabian citizens to compensate them for cost of living increases will cost the government about 50 billion riyals (\$13.3 billion) this year, the information minister was quoted as saying on Sunday.

"The allocation of 50 billion riyals for this decree indicates the leadership's concern for the people's comfort and quality of living," Minister of Culture and Information Awwad bin Saleh Alawwad told the Saudi-owned Al Sharq Al Awsat newspaper.

On Saturday, King Salman ordered a monthly payment of 1,000 riyals to state employees over the year in compensation for the rising cost of living after Riyadh hiked gasoline prices and introduced value-added tax. Pensioners and soldiers will also be given bonuses, while the government will bear the cost of VAT in some situations, such as the first purchase of a home.

Alawwad also repeated previous government statements indicating Riyadh would spend 30 billion riyals this year on the Citizens Account, a household allowance scheme designed to reduce the impact of austerity policies on low and middle-income Saudi families.

Saudi Arabia, the world's top oil exporter, roughly doubled domestic gasoline prices last week as part of reforms aimed at diversifying its economy. A 5 percent VAT on a broad range of goods and services came into effect on the same day.

Private economists have estimated the government will raise about 40 billion riyals in 2018 through VAT. The government did not announce how much money it expected to make from the gasoline price hike, but previous statements by officials have suggested it would be in the tens of billions of riyals.

A state budget plan released last month projected a deficit of 195 billion riyals, or 7.3 percent of gross domestic product, in 2018. The budget appeared to assume an average oil price of about \$55 a barrel; Brent crude is now around \$67, so Riyadh may be able to afford the royal handouts without any damage to its finances.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh National Housing Authority Low Income Community Housing Support Project Grihayan Bhaban 82, Segunbagicha, Dhaka-1000 Procurement of Vehicles on Rental Basis IFT No. 01/2017-18 (2nd Call)

1.	Ministry/division	Ministry of Housing and Public Works.	
2.	Agency	National Housing Authority.	
3.	Procuring entity name	Project Director.	
4.	Procuring entity code	Not used at present.	
5.	Procuring entity district	Dhaka	
6.	Invitation for	Tender	Procurement of vehicles on rental basis for LICHSP Single lot.
7.	Invitation Ref No.	NHA/LICHSP/Rental vehicle/2017-18/10	
8.	Date	04.01.2018	
KEY INFORMATION			
9.	Procurement method	Open Tendering Method (OTM) (NCT).	
FUNDING INFORMATION			
10.	Budget and source of funds	Development Budget, Credit.	
11.	Development partner (if applicable)	World Bank (IDA).	
PARTICULAR INFORMATION			
12.	Project/programme code (if applicable)	Not applicable.	
13.	Project/programme name	Low Income Community Housing Support Project (LICHSP).	
14.	Tender package No.	LICHSP/Rental Vehicle/NCT-1	
15.	Tender package name	Procurement of vehicles on rental basis for LICHSP.	
16.	Tender publication date	07.01.2018	
17.	Tender last selling date	21.01.2018 up to 5:00pm.	
18.	Tender submission date and time	22.01.2018; Time: 12:00 noon.	
19.	Tender opening date and time	22.01.2018; Time: 12.30pm.	
20.	Name & address of the office(s)	Addresses	
	-Selling tender (principal)	Office of the Project Director, Low Income Community Housing Support Project, National Housing Authority, Grihayan Bhaban, 82, Segunbagicha, Dhaka-1000.	
	-Selling tender (secondary)	(1) Office of the Executive Engineer, Mirpur Housing & Settlement-2, National Housing Authority, Mirpur, Dhaka. (2) Office of the Executive Engineer, Dhaka Division-2, National Housing Authority, Mohammadpur, Dhaka.	
	-Receiving tender	Office of the Project Director, Low Income Community Housing Support Project, National Housing Authority, Grihayan Bhaban, 82, Segunbagicha, Dhaka-1000.	
	-Opening tender	Office of the Project Director, Low Income Community Housing Support Project, National Housing Authority, Grihayan Bhaban, 82, Segunbagicha, Dhaka-1000.	
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER			
21.	Eligibility of tenderer	* Tenderers shall have the legal capacity to enter into the Contract under the Applicable Law. * Tenderers shall have fulfilled its obligations to pay taxes under the provisions of laws and regulations of Bangladesh. * Tenderers and all parties constituting the tenderer shall not have a conflict of interest.	
22.	Brief description of physical services	Procurement of Vehicles on rental basis for Low Income Community Housing Support Project (one No. Car and One No. Microbus on daily/monthly basis).	
23.	Brief description of related services	Not applicable.	
24.	Price of tender document	Tk. 1,000.00 (Taka one thousand) only.	
25.	Amount of tender security	Tk. 1,50,000.00 (Taka one lac fifty thousand) only.	
26.	Completion time	26 months.	
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS			
27.	Name of official inviting tender	SAM Fazlul Kabir.	
28.	Designation of official inviting tender	Member (Engineering & Coordination), NHA & Project Director, LICHSP.	
29.	Address of official inviting tender	Room # 213, First Floor, Grihayan Bhaban, 82, Segunbagicha, Dhaka-1000.	
30.	Contact details of official inviting tender	Tel. No. (8802) 9569367, Email: pd.lichsp@gmail.com	
31.	The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without showing any reason whatsoever.		